

JOHN GRISWOLD/ELIZABETH CRITTENDEN---CLINTON  
 CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH---REV. HENRY CURTIS/ELIZA  
 BANNING---HENRY BANNING CURTIS/LOUISA GRISWOLD  
 LEVI NORTON---WILLIAM C. NORTON

The following text was written by Alice Mae (Curtis)  
 Lund in August-September, 1981:

The Way It Was. A True Story of Clinton Center.

By Alice Mae (Curtis) Lund

Everything has a place of beginning. I guess this will have several starting places. In all probability a road is a good place to get going. The Belmont and Easton turnpike (north and south) was opened in 1812, creating a way to get from here to there. A road invited settlers in the opening of the new country. This article is going to be a history of several families and their part in building Clinton Center. Let's get going with the Griswolds. Now, the Griswold family can trace their roots way back to the 1400s in England, but to do that, it becomes a genealogy, monotonous and uninteresting for a story. So, we will start with John, the Revolutionary soldier, Griswold, who was born in Granville, Hampshire Co. Mass. in 1754 and died Oct. 16, 1843, and is buried in the Clinton Cemetery. He served in the Continental Army, from which he was honorably discharged. In Oct. of 1790 or 91, he was married to Elizabeth Crittenden. To them were born six sons: John, Francis, Orin, Sumner, Horace and Sedate. They moved to Clinton in 1813, coming from Mass. in a heavy, two-wheeled cart, drawn by four year-old steers. The mother rode the horse and the little colt followed. They settled on the higher ground just south of where Moosic Grange Hall now stands. The loose stones of the old foundation were still visible some years ago. The old road was nearer to the mountain than the present one and was the one over which General Wayne marched his army. The family cleared the land and set out an orchard. Some years later a new cabin was built. Wild animals roamed the woods and were a menace to livestock. Nature was a good provider, fish and game were very plentiful. The fertile soil produced crops and grain. Maple trees produced syrup and sugar. Wool and flax were woven into clothing and linens for the family. Dyes were made from the barks. John Griswold was a deacon in the Baptist Church for many years; also prominent in community affairs, a steady and good provider for his family. His son, Francis was also an outstanding man, and pillar of strength spiritually and morally to the benefit of the community. John Griswold took on horseback the first grist of wheat he raised and started for Wilkes-Barre to have it

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 written after  
 the Griswold  
 Reunion &  
 Pioneer Day  
 in 1982  
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IT, 2, 11/18/81,  
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